

Good afternoon to members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

I am in favor of HB 0699 which is being sponsored by Delegate Lehman.

When I was contacted after my son's suicide by the coroner's office I was stricken and in shock. I had no idea what to ask. If grief counseling was offered, I would have accepted. After several days, I had so many regrets from questions I didn't ask, such as, could my son's organs have been donated, and if they could have taken fingerprints for later use. The office of the Medical examiner is usually the first contact that parents have with the survivors of suicide and they are usually in a state of shock and despair. It's very important for this initial contact to be comforting and a source of solace.

Thank you for your time, Cheryl Brooks

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